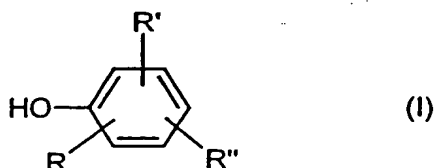


### **AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A solvent-free ~~Solvent-free~~, low-branching, thermoplastic, aromatic polycarbonates ~~prepared by the transesterification process~~ and having a weight-average molecular weights ( $M_w$ ) of from 2000 to 150,000, ~~based on~~ and being prepared by melt transesterification of a composition comprising,

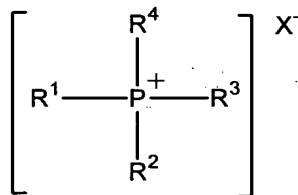
- (i) diphenols,
- (ii) chain terminators of formula (I)



wherein R, R' and R'' each independently of the others represent H, optionally branched  $C_1$ - $C_{34}$ -alkyl/cycloalkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_{34}$ -alkaryl or  $C_6$ - $C_{34}$ -aryl, and,

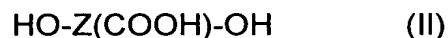
- (iii) optionally[,.] branching agents,

wherein the transesterification process is performed in the presence of a catalyst represented by the following formula



for which  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{14}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{12}$ -aralkyl and  $C_5$ - $C_6$ -cycloalkyl, and  $X^-$  is an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, hydrogen carbonate, carbonate, acetate, boranate, hydrogen

phosphate, halide, and an alcoholate of the formula OR<sup>5</sup> wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-aralkyl, and characterised in that further wherein after its total saponification the aromatic polycarbonate it contains less than 300 ppm, determined by HPLC, of elements conforming to formula (II)



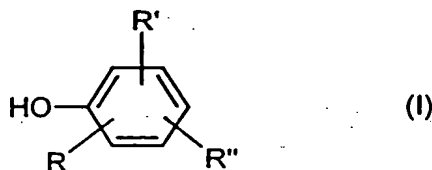
wherein Z is an aromatic radical having 6 to 30 carbon atoms and where the acid group is in the ortho position relative to a hydroxy group.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Polycarbonates according to claim 1, characterised in that~~ The polycarbonate of Claim 1 wherein the end groups consist of alkylphenol end groups to the extent of more than 30% of the reacted end groups.

3. (Previously Presented) The polycarbonate according to Claim 1 wherein said elements are present in an amount of from 0.03 ppm to 250 ppm.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of ~~the a~~ a low-branching polycarbonates ~~according to Claim 1 comprising transesterification in the presence of phosphonium salt catalyst~~ melt transesterifying a composition of,

- (i) diphenols,
- (ii) chain terminators of formula (I)

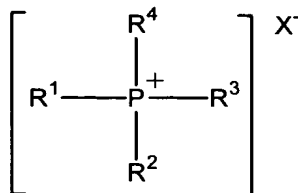


wherein R, R' and R'' each independently of the others represent H, optionally branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>34</sub>-alkyl/cycloalkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>34</sub>-alkaryl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>34</sub>-aryl, and

(iii) optionally branching agents,

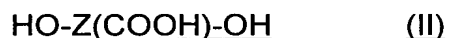
in the presence of

(iv) a catalyst represented by the following formula



for which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-aralkyl and C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, hydrogen carbonate, carbonate, acetate, boranate, hydrogen phosphate, halide, and an alcoholate of the formula OR<sup>5</sup> wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-aralkyl,

wherein after total saponification the aromatic polycarbonate contains less than 300 ppm, determined by HPLC, of elements conforming to formula (II)



wherein Z is an aromatic radical having 6 to 30 carbon atoms and where the acid group is in the ortho position relative to a hydroxy group.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process according to claim 4, in which~~ The process of Claim 4 wherein the catalyst is used in concentrations of from 10<sup>-2</sup> mol to 10<sup>-6</sup> mol, based on 1 mol of diphenol.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 4 wherein the catalyst is tetraphenylphosphonium phenolate.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A molded article comprising the polycarbonate of Claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) The molded article of Claim 8 ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the molded article is transparent.

10. (Currently Amended) The molded article of Claim 8 selected from the group consisting of data stores, audio compact disks, sheets, multi-wall sheets, films, lamp housings, panes, headlamp lenses, and structural elements.

11. (New) The polycarbonate of Claim 1 wherein the catalyst is tetraphenylphosphonium phenolate.